

Today's News - Wednesday, May 1, 2013

- Rochon finds similarities between MoMA/AFAM and VAG plans: "Bulldozing great architecture in the name of housing great art. That's how low some big public art institutions - including, most recently, the Vancouver Art Gallery - have sunk."
- Iovine weighs in on the "architectural conundrum" in designing a presidential library: "If anyone can handle the contradictory impulses and requirements, it is Robert A.M. Stern" - the Bush Library "speaks of considerable sophistication and an eagerness to please."
- Not all are pleased that Melbourne has opened a Federation Square site to private sector development (what's wrong with LAB Architecture's multi-purpose design, we wonder).
- The Twentieth Century Society has some "serious concerns" about plan to overhaul London's Southbank Centre.
- Lubell on Zumthor's plans for LACMA: he's "planning to basically take LACMA apart and start over" (including replacing four of the museum's midcentury structures).
- Unlikely allies get behind a call to restore Calgary's Brutalist Century Gardens Park.
- Fuksas wins competition to design a "High Line" elevated rail line park for Bari, Italy.
- The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts taps two firms to design a new fifth pavilion.
- The University of Toronto taps a local and a Brit for new Centre for Engineering Innovation & Entrepreneurship.
- China giving Algeria an opera house leaves locals puzzled: "A factory would have been a better present. Some of us can't even buy a kilogram of potatoes or tomatoes."
- "Changing nothing about Donald Judd's original vision" for 101 Spring Street was "an unprecedented restoration project for ARO."
- Fisher finds much to like in a new mausoleum in Minneapolis: it's "a work of architecture prompting us to return again and again" (great pix).
- Makovsky has a most amusing (and informative) Q&A with Lambert re: "Building Seagram," how she picked Mies (who knew there was a list of "those who could-but-shouldn't, those who should-but-couldn't, and those who could-and-should"), and the legacy of the CCA.
- Eyefuls of the 20 projects shortlisted for \$1 million Aga Khan Award for Architecture (great presentation).
- Call for entries: DC Water Green Infrastructure Challenge (\$1 million+ to get things done) + CoD+A Awards: Collaboration of Design + Art (no fee!).

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Bulldozing great architecture in the name of housing great art: That's how low some big public art institutions – including, most recently, the Vancouver Art Gallery – have sunk...Sadly, like Saturn, MoMA is devouring its own children, the very ones we thought big daddy would protect. By Lisa Rochon -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects; Francis Rattenbury (1912)- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Bricks and Immortality: The presidential library is an architectural conundrum...if anyone can handle the contradictory impulses and requirements, it is Robert A.M. Stern...George W. Bush Presidential Center speaks of considerable sophistication and an eagerness to please... By Julie V. Iovine -- Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates - Wall Street Journal

Iconic Federation Square site in Melbourne opens to private sector development: ...after scrapping LAB Architecture's 2010 multi purpose design...fears the new private sector model will result in less public space.- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Heritage group flags up Southbank worries; Twentieth Century Society outlines "serious concerns"...said the new glass box proposed under Feilden Clegg Bradley's plan to overhaul the Southbank Centre will end up blocking views of the complex...also criticised the way the plans had been presented to the public, accusing FCB of leaving out "key details." - BD/Building Design (UK)

LACMA Transformation Coming Into Focus: One, Michael Govan is more of a builder than a museum director; and two, that Govan and Peter Zumthor are planning to basically take LACMA apart and start over...four of the museum's midcentury structures will be replaced by "curvaceous modern glass structures." By Sam Lubell- The Architect's Newspaper

The Calgary Park That's United Historic Preservationists and Parkour Athletes: ...at 38 years-old, the Brutalist public space is starting to show its age...The city is itching to overhaul Century Gardens Park...Early proposals range from sprucing up the existing park...to completely razing it and building a new park from scratch. -- Calgary Heritage Initiative Society [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Fuksas wins comp to design Italian 'high line': ...has beaten off international competition...to masterplan the railway area of Bari in Italy...designs reconnect the two sides of the city through a 780,000m2 elevated park giving views over the city and the sea. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Manon Asselin architecte + Jodoin Lamarre Pratte Architectes to design Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' new fifth pavilion: MMFA's Pavilion of International Art...- Canadian Architect

The University of Toronto selects architects for new Centre for Engineering Innovation & Entrepreneurship: The CEIE will serve as the hub of U of T Engineering's collaborative learning and interdisciplinary research... -- Montgomery Sisam Architects; Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios - Canadian Architect

China hopes to hit the right note with Algeria opera house: New 1,400-seat venue offered as gift...a symbol of friendship between the two countries: Turning an agricultural site into an opera house has puzzled the locals..."A factory would have been a better present...Some of us can't even buy a kilogram of potatoes or tomatoes"...- Guardian (UK)

101 Spring Street by Donald Judd (and ARO): Changing nothing about Donald Judd's original vision for his cast-iron building home and studio made for an unprecedented restoration project...ARO's principle for modifications was "virtual invisibility"...an approach that the project's namesake would have insisted on. -- Architecture Research Office; Arup; Walter B. Melvin Architects [images]- Architect Magazine

Mausoleum as Mnemonic Device: On occasion, cemetery buildings affect us...as a work of architecture prompting us to return to them again and again...The new Garden Mausoleum and Reception Center in Minneapolis's Lakewood Cemetery is such a structure. By Thomas Fisher -- HGA; Halvorson Design Partnership [images]- Faith & Form Magazine

Finding Mies: A talk with Phyllis Lambert on the making of a masterpiece: "Building Seagram..."how she picked Mies for the project, and the legacy of the Canadian Centre for Architecture..."Eero Saarinen...proposed we draw up a list of architects according to three categories: those who could-but-shouldn't, those who should-but-couldn't, and those who could-and-should." By Paul Makovsky --

20 Projects Shortlisted for \$1 million Aga Khan Award for Architecture. -- AbCT/Architecture by Collective Terrain; Marc Mimran Architecture; Bernado Bader Architects; Bangkok Project Studio/Boonserm Premthada; Ateliers Lion Associés/Dagher Hanna & Partners; Peter Rich Architects; 2A+P/A, laN+ , Mario Cutuli; Groupe 3 Architectes; Trace Architecture Office; Shigeru Ban Architects; Salima Naji; Rumah Asuh/Yori Antar; Minakshi Jain; ICHTO East Azerbaijan Office; Studio Tamassociati; WOHA Architects; Mass Design Group; etc. [images]- Aga Khan Development Network

Call for entries: DC Water Green Infrastructure Challenge: more than \$1 million for design and construction of Green Infrastructure projects in the Potomac and Rock Creek drainage areas in the District of Columbia; deadline: October 1 - DC Water/District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority

Call for entries: CoD+A Awards: Collaboration of Design + Art: design projects that demonstrate the most successful integration of commissioned art into an interior or architectural space; no fee; deadline: May 31 - The Art Commission



-- COBE + Transform: BIBLIOTEKET / THE LIBRARY, Copenhagen, Denmark
-- Braga, Porto, Cascais, Marco de Canavezes, Lisbon: Portugal is one of the few countries where you can actually see the political development manifest itself in the architecture. -- Álvaro Siza Vieira; Eduardo Souto de Moura

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